

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A point service system for providing the points corresponding to a service to be supplied to a customer who purchases said service in a virtual shop joined on a network, comprising:

information storing means for storing at least a number of accumulated points of each customer;

shop support means for being given reports on information for specifying a customer and first transaction information containing the supplied point number from a virtual shop (simply referred to as a shop) that supplies the service when a service transaction takes place and adding said supplied point number to the accumulated point number of said customer; and

vendor support means for being given reports on information for specifying a customer and second transaction information containing a number of consumed points from a virtual shop (referred to as a vendor) for providing a premium when a premium transaction takes place and subtracting said number of consumed points reported from said vendor from the accumulated point number of said customer.

2. A point service system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information storing means pre-stores a first rule for specifying a range of the point number corresponding to a price of the service to be supplied and a second rule for specifying a range of the point

number corresponding to a price of the premium to be supplied, said shop support means checks validity of said supplied point number sent from said shop according to said first rule, and said vendor support means checks validity of said consumed point number sent from said vendor according to said second rule.

3. A point service system as claimed in claim 1, wherein a time stamp and a serial number are added to said first and second transaction information sent from said shop and vendor and said transaction information is stored in said information storing means.

4. A point service system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising shop registering means for examining whether or not a shop is permitted to be registered and vendor registering means for examining whether or not a vendor is permitted to be registered.

5. A point service system as claimed in claim 1 wherein contract term information and a rule for noticing a term expiration of each shop are pre-stored in said information storing means and the term expiration is noticed to the shop in question according to said rule.

6. A point service system for providing the points corresponding to a service to be supplied to a customer (referred to as a member) who purchases the service in a virtual shop joined on a network and providing a premium to the member according to the number of said points, comprising:

shop support means for being given reports on information for specifying a member and first transaction information containing a number of provided points from a virtual shop (referred to as a shop) for providing a service when a service transaction takes place and adding the number of provided points reported from said shop to the number of accumulated points of said member; and

member support means for reporting to said member first point information containing the added result of said accumulated points given by said shop support means and second point information containing the subtracted result of said accumulated points given by said vendor support means.

7. A point service system as claimed in claim 6, wherein a time stamp and a serial number are added to said first and second transaction information sent from

said shop and said vendor and the result is stored in said information storing means.

8. A point service system as claimed in claim 6, further comprising:

shop registering means for examining whether or not a shop is permitted to be registered;

vendor registering means for examining whether or not a vendor is permitted to be registered; and

member registering means for examining whether or not a member is permitted to be registered.

9. A point service system as claimed in claim 6, wherein contract term information of each shop and member and a rule for noticing a term expiration are pre-stored in said information storing means, and the term expiration is noticed to said shop and member according to said rule.

10. A point service system as claimed in claim 1, wherein information for defining a plurality of customers as one family is pre-stored in said information storing means so that the total points of the family may be replaced with the premium.

11. A point service system as claimed in claim 1, wherein information for defining a plurality of customers as one family and information for specifying a boss member of said family are pre-stored in said information storing means so that a right of replacing

the total points of said family with the corresponding premium is given to said boss member.

12. A point service system as claimed in claim 1, wherein statistical information of the point service at a shop unit, a customer unit and a family unit is stored in said information storing means.

13. A point service system for providing the corresponding points to a service to be supplied to a customer (referred to as a member) who purchases the service in a virtual shop and providing the premium corresponding to said point number to the member, comprising:

information storing means for storing at least a number of accumulated points of each member;

first shop support means for being given reports on information for specifying a joining member and first transaction information containing the number of provided points through a network from the virtual shop (referred to as a first shop) that provides a service when a service transaction takes place and adding the number of provided points reported from said first shop to the number of accumulated points of said member;

first vendor support means for being given reports on information for specifying a joining member and second transaction information containing the number of consumed points through said network from a virtual shop (referred to as a first vendor) for providing

a premium when a premium transaction takes place and subtracting the number of consumed points reported from said first vendor from the number of accumulated points of said member;

second shop support means for being given reports on information for specifying a joining member and third transaction information containing the number of provided points from a virtual shop (referred to as a second shop) for providing a service when a service transaction takes place through an inter-program communicating means and adding the number of said provided points reported from said second shop to the number of accumulated points of said member; and

second vendor support means for being given reports on information for specifying a joining member and fourth transaction information containing the number of consumed points from a virtual shop (referred to as a second vendor) for providing a premium when a premium transaction takes place through an inter-program communicating means and subtracting the number of consumed points reported from said second vendor from the number of accumulated points of said member.

14. A method of processing a point service in a point service system for providing the corresponding points to a service to a customer who purchases the service in a virtual shop joined on a network, comprising the steps of:

reporting to a system host information for specifying a customer and information containing the number of provided points each time a virtual shop for providing a service (referred to as a shop) provides a service to a customer and enabling said system host to add the number of provided points reported therefrom to the number of accumulated points of each customer as the number of obtained points of the customer for updating the accumulated point number of the customer, and reporting the information containing the updated accumulated points to the customer; and

reporting to said system host information for specifying a customer and information containing the number of obtained points each time a virtual shop for providing a premium (referred to as a vendor) provides a premium to a customer, enabling said system host to subtract the number of obtained points reported from said vendor from the number of accumulated points of each customer as the number of consumed points of the customer for updating the number of accumulated points of each customer, and reporting information containing said updated accumulated points to each customer.

15. A method of processing a point service as claimed in claim 14, wherein said system host checks if the point number noticed from said shop or vendor meets a predetermined condition and sends the checked result to said shop or vendor.

16. A method of processing a point service as claimed in claim 15, wherein when said shop or vendor receives the checked result indicating no problem from said system host, said shop or vendor reports to a customer a service transaction is established.

17. A method of processing a point service as claimed in claim 16, wherein said customer reports claim information to said system host if said service processing is problematic.

18. A method of processing a point service as claimed in claim 16, wherein if a customer fulfills a payment for a service, said shop reports to said system host service stopping information to said customer.

19. A method of processing a point service as claimed in claim 18, wherein when said system host receives a notice of said service stopping information, said system host operates to perform a process of returning the accumulated point number of said customer and report the information containing the return-processed accumulated point number to said customer.

20. A method of processing a point service as claimed in claim 14, wherein said shop may set any number of points in the range of the point number corresponding to the price of the service pre-registered in said system host.

21. A method of processing a point service as claimed in claim 14, wherein said vendor may set any number of points in the range of the point number



corresponding to a premium price pre-registered in said system host.

22. A method of registering a virtual shop in a point service system for providing the points corresponding to a service to a customer who purchases said service in a virtual shop joined on a network, comprising the steps of:

enabling said virtual shop to accept a registration key from a system host by sending predetermined examination information to said system host; and

enabling said virtual shop to download a program for a virtual shop from said system host by sending said registration key and contract information to said system host.

23. A method of registering a member in a point service system for providing the number of points corresponding to a service to a customer (referred to as a member) who purchases a service in a virtual shop joined on a network, comprising the steps of:

enabling said member to accept a registration key from a system host by sending predetermined examination information to said system host; and

enabling said member to send said registration key and contract information to said system host.

24. A method of managing a contract term of a virtual shop in a point service system for providing

the number of points corresponding to a service to a customer who purchases said service in a virtual shop joined on a network, comprising the steps of:

periodically referring to contract term information and a rule for noticing a term expiration of each virtual shop pre-registered in a system host; and

reporting a notice of a term expiration to the virtual shop according to said term expiration notice rule unless the contract term is expired.

25. In a computer for realizing a virtual shop for providing points to a customer as a result of providing a service to a customer on a network, a recording medium for storing a program having the functions of:

providing a service after making sure that the customer is a member;

noticing to a system host information for specifying said member and the number of points corresponding to said provided service after said service is provided;

receiving checking information for indicating validity of a transaction from said system host; and

reporting to a member the fact that a service transaction is established when receiving the checking information for indicating no problem from said system host.

26. In a computer for realizing a virtual shop

for obtaining points in association with provision of a premium to a customer on a network, a recording medium for storing a program having functions of:

providing a premium after making sure that the customer is a member;

noticing to a system host information for specifying said member and the number of obtained points corresponding to said provided premium after provided said premium;

receiving checking information for indicating validity of a transaction from said system host; and

reporting to a member the fact that the premium transaction is established when the checking information for indicating no problem is received from said system host.

27. A method of processing points of a customer in a point service system for providing the points corresponding to a service to a customer who purchases the service on a virtual joined on a network and providing the premium corresponding to said point number to the customer, comprising the methods of:

noticing to a system host by the virtual chop information for specifying a customer and the number of provided points by the virtual shop each time the virtual shop provides a service to the customer;

enabling said system host to add the noticed provided point number to the number of accumulated points of the customer as the number of obtained points

of said customer;

noticing to said system host by the virtual shop information for specifying a customer and the number of obtained points each time the virtual shop provides a premium to the customer; and

enabling said system host to subtract the noticed number of obtained points from the number of accumulated points of the customer as the number of consumed points of said customer.

28. A method of processing points of a virtual shop in a point service system for providing the points corresponding to a service to a customer who purchases the service in a virtual shop joined on a network and providing the premium corresponding to the point number to said customer, comprising the steps of:

enabling the virtual shop for providing a service to purchase the points to be provided to a customer from a system host and provide the points corresponding to a service to each customer each time said service is provided to each customer, thereby consuming the points to be provided to each customer; and

enabling the virtual shop for providing a premium to obtain the points corresponding to a premium each time said premium is provided to each customer and adjust the points obtained within a certain term between the virtual shop itself and said system host, thereby consuming said points.